THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Request transfers under Rule 38 of the P&T Manual Vol.-IV, may be sought for by staff belonging to either Divisional or Circle jurisdiction to Divisions within the same circle or outside their circles. According to the existing procedure, normally service limit of 5 years in the recruiting unit of the official is insisted upon. However, the willingness of the Head of the Circle/Division in whose jurisdiction the transfer has been sought for and the availability of vacancy in that unit are required to be considered. Also the Head of Circle/Division under whose jurisdiction the official is working is required to obtain the consen of the Head of Circle or Division in whose jurisdiction on the transfer is sought. Rule 38 transfers in promotion cadres are not granted since those affect the promotional prospects of officials working in the recipient units.

(b) No transfer order has been issued by PMG ? J&K Circle for transfer of any official from jammu Division to Dharamshala Division so far.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Production of essential drugs by Multinationals

195. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to compel the multinational corporations to produce essential drugs in adequate quantities ;

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure to transfer advanced technology and up-to-date know-how to the Indian Companies for the manufacture of drugs at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether there is a proposal of Government to base the drug policy on the report of National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Development Council (NDPDC) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) There is no provision in law, for the present, to compel any company to produce a bulk drug.

(b) Government have liberalised its policy on foreign collaborations.

(c) No final decision has been taken as yet.

Damage suit against Union Carbide Ltd.

196. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 378 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 1985 regarding out of court settlement by the Union Carbide Limited and state what is the progress so far of this damage suit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : After the Second Pre-trial conference, the Judge has ordered "discovery" on the limited issue of forum non-convenions. Oral arguments on the forum *non-convenions motion* have been fixed by the Court for January 3, 1986.